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REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended, and new claims 30-34 have been added. Claims 1-34 are presently pending in the application.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Caridad Everhart for her thorough search and review of the prior-art, her careful consideration and examination of the present application and claims, and her indication that claim 28 contains allowable subject matter. In particular, the Examiner stated that claim 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten claim 28 as new claim 34.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-27 and 29 on prior art. Regarding these rejections, claims 1, 2, 9, 12, 15-18 and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hung et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,620,564). Claims 3-8, 13, 14, 21-24, 26, 27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hung et al. Claims 1-27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruek et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,415,835).

Regarding these rejections of the claims under, Applicants would like to thank Examiner Everhart for the oral correspondences with Applicants' representative, Kenton R. Mullins, on October 21, 2004, at which time it was indicated by Examiner Everhart that independent claim 1 and new claims 30-33 as presently amended appear to distinguish over the prior art of record. Examiner Everhart reserved the right to review the matter in greater detail and to conduct an update search. Accordingly, Applicants request that the outstanding rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.


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In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of same is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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